

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/042,250

Examiner

Christopher Verdier

Applicant(s)

KIM, SEONG CHUN

Art Unit

3745

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Applicant's Amendment dated 6-17-04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-11.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 11 January 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Robert Webster, Attorney of Record, on September 17, 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claims:

In claim 1, line 11, after "edge", -- at the uppermost portion -- has been inserted.

In claim 10, line 10, after "edge", -- at the uppermost portion -- has been inserted.

In claim 10, fourth to last line, "rest" has been changed to -- remaining --.

In claim 11, line 9, after "edge", -- at the uppermost portion -- has been inserted.

In claim 11, fourth to last line, "rest" has been changed to -- remaining --.

The above changes to claims 10 and 11, fourth to last line, have been made to correct the grammar thereof. The insertion in claims 1, 10, and 11 of the term -- at the uppermost portion -- after "edge" has been made in order to place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons set for the below.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: During a telephone interview on September 14, 2004 between Robert Webster, Attorney of Record, and the undersigned, it was brought to the attention of the examiner that a Chinese Search Report pertaining to the instant application cited Japanese Patent 7-293,494 against the claims based on lack of novelty and lack of inventive step. A courtesy copy of the Chinese Search Report and Japanese Patent 7-293,494 was faxed to the examiner. The claims of the instant application, as amended above, are directed towards an unobvious improvement over the invention disclosed in Japanese Patent 7-293,494. The Japanese Patent (figures 1, 3, and 5) discloses a turbofan and a mold for fabricating the turbofan substantially as claimed, including a hub 2, blades 3, and a shroud 4, with the hub, blades and shroud being formed in one body, and the shroud 4 comprising a first extension 4b protruding to extend from a coupling part with a leading edge of each of the blades in an inward radial direction of a rotational shaft of the hub and a second extension 4a extending straightly from the first extension in a direction of the rotational axis toward a side opposite to the hub. The improvement comprises the first extension 4b protruding to extend from a coupling part with the leading edge at the uppermost portion of each of the blades in an inward radial direction of the rotational shaft. In Japanese Patent 7-293,494, the first extension 4b protrudes to extend from the coupling part with the leading edge, but at the lowermost portion of each of the blades. The improvement improves the coupling part at which the shroud and blade insides are coupled to prevent a sharp edge from occurring during molding. None of the prior art discloses or suggests the improvement.

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Examiner's Comments

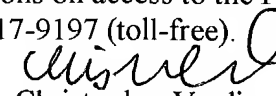
The Restriction Requirement of March 17, 2004 is hereby withdrawn in light of Applicant's arguments on page 10, last paragraph and page 11, lines 1-7 of the Applicant's Response dated June 17, 2004, which have been found to be persuasive. It was noted during the interview of September 14, 2004 that the Applicant's Response dated June 17, 2004 contained a typographical error in the serial number, listed as "10/042,405", which was corrected by the examiner to the proper serial number 10/042,250.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher Verdier whose telephone number is (703)-308-2638. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 10:00-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward K. Look can be reached on (703) 308-1044. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

C.V.
September 17, 2004


Christopher Verdier
Primary Examiner
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